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Diplomacy Syllabi

School of Diplomacy and International
Relations

Spring 2021

Civil Conflict and Development

Omer Gokcekus Ph.D.

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Civil Conflict and Development

DIPL 6253 WB

ASYNCHRONOUS WEB BASED

Spring 2021

Instructor: Omer Gokcekus, Ph.D.
Office hours: Monday/Tuesdays, 15:00 – 17:00 or by appointment
Office: (via Microsoft Teams)
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Course Description:

This course addresses one of the central challenges in post-conflict recovery, how to rebuild a viable economy that is able to meet the basic needs of the state and society. This course examines the economic consequences of civil wars and how states and international organizations have responded to the challenges of rebuilding post-conflict societies in light of weak national political institutions and economies with limited options. Students will appraise the possible tradeoffs that exist in forming governments that can protect property rights, reconstituting viable economies, and promoting peace across national territories. In evaluating the role of international actors (through foreign aid and the role of the IMF and World Bank), our aim is to examine approaches (prior and current) so as to develop and propose more optimal policies that mitigate these tradeoffs.

Course Objectives:

- 1) To understand empirical scholarship on conflict and economics and explain the findings to an educated audience.
- 2) To derive policy implications from academic research and explain them to an educated audience.
- 3) To diagnose failings in the manner in which post-conflict countries have been aided in the past and to propose solutions with durable results.

Course Materials:

The textbook that we will use for this course is the following:

- Graciana Del Castillo. 2008. *Rebuilding War-Torn States: The Challenge of Post-Conflict Economic Reconstruction*. New York: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 978-0-19-923773-9.
- Ashraf Ghani and Clare Lockhart. 2008. *Fixing Failed States: A Framework for Rebuilding a Fractured World*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 978-0195398618

Additional readings will be available on Blackboard.

Assignments and Grading Rules

1. *3 two-page policy memos*: each student will be responsible for writing four two-page policy memos related to a substantive issue along with a series of questions that will be available at the end of a weekly topical issue. Policy memos will be due on Saturday at 9 p.m. of week 4, week 8 and week 13, respectively.
2. *20-page research paper*: each student will write a paper based on a topic of each student's choice that should be cleared with the professor and is due on or before 7 March. The research paper should be related to an issue that is related to civil conflict and development and is due on or before 13 May, 9 p.m.
3. *Discussion forum/blog*: students will be expected to engage in weekly class discussions/blogs. The class forum will discuss topical issues and current events. Each forum will begin on Monday, 4 p.m. of each week, and will remain open until 11:59 p.m., Friday.

All students are expected to do all of the reading in advance and to take part in the discussions. Taking part in the course discussions is expected and speaking or posting to course discussions only a few times over the duration of the semester does not count as full participatory credit. The quality of class sessions is greatly enhanced when students are prepared to engage the course material in a constructive fashion. Participation will be noted and credited to your grade. (Students will receive full credit of 2.5 point if they participate weekly discussion forum in a timely manner.)

Basis for Grade and Distribution:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| • 3 policy memos | 35% |
| • Semester research paper/abstract | 35%/5% |
| • Discussion forum/blog | 15% |
| • Participation | 10% |

A = 94 – 100; A- = 90 – 93; B+ = 87 – 89; B = 84 – 86; B- = 80 – 83;
C+ = 77 – 79; C = 74 – 76; C- = 70 - 73
D+ = 67 – 69; D = 64 – 66; D- = 60 - 63
F = 60 and below

*Note: Graduate students in Seton Hall's School of Diplomacy should be aware that they need a minimum GPA of 3.0 to graduate.

Important Notes

Coronavirus Safety:

In accordance with the Seton Hall pledge, students must wear a mask in class, maintain required social distancing, and not come to class if you are ill. No mask, no class. The pledge can be found here: <https://www.shu.edu/health-intervention-communication/seton-hall-pledge.cfm>

CAPS:

As part of our commitment to the health and well-being of all students, Seton Hall University's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers initial assessments, counseling, crisis intervention, consultation, and referral services to the SHU community. The CAPS office is located on the second floor of Mooney Hall, room 27. Appointments can be made in-person or by calling 973-761-9500 during regular business hours, Monday-Friday, 8:45 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. In case of a psychological emergency, call CAPS (973-761-9500) at any time to speak to a crisis counselor. For more information, please visit: <https://www.shu.edu/counseling-psychologicalservices/index.cfm>

Citation Formats:

Papers should utilize one of the Chicago Manual of Style citation formats.

Policy on Incompletes:

Incompletes will be given only in exceptional cases for emergencies. Students wishing to request a grade of Incomplete must provide documentation to support the request accompanied by a Course Adjustment Form (available from the Diplomacy Main Office) to the professor *before* the date of the final examination. If the incomplete request is approved, the professor reserves the right to specify the new submission date for all missing coursework. Students who fail to submit the missing course work within this time period will receive a failing grade for all missing coursework and a final grade based on all coursework assigned. Any Incomplete not resolved within one calendar year of receiving the Incomplete or by the time of graduation (whichever comes first) automatically becomes an "FI" (which is equivalent to an F). It is the responsibility of the student to make sure they have completed all course requirements within the timeframe allotted. Please be aware that Incompletes on your transcript will impact financial aid and academic standing.

Academic and Professional Integrity:

All forms of dishonesty, whether by act or omission, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism and knowingly furnishing false information, are prohibited. Work submitted in the course *must be the product of each individual student*. Contributions of others to the finished work must be appropriately cited and acknowledged.

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will be reported to the administration, and may result in a lowered or failing grade for the course and up to

possible dismissal from the School of Diplomacy. See university and school standards for academic conduct here:

- <http://www.shu.edu/offices/student-life/community-standards/community-standards.cfm>
- <http://www.shu.edu/academics/diplomacy/academic-conduct.cfm>.

Disability Services:

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Civil Rights Restoration Act, students at Seton Hall University who have a disability may be eligible for accommodations in this course. Should a student require such accommodation, he or she must self-identify at the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS), Room 67, Duffy Hall, provide documentation of said disability, and work with DSS to develop a plan for accommodations. The contact person is Ms. Diane Delorenzo at [\(973\) 313-6003](tel:9733136003).

Readings, Assignments, and Due Dates

Week 1 Introduction and Background

January 27 Del Castillo, *Rebuilding War-Torn States*, Chs. 1 - 4.

USAID, —Lessons Learned About Economic Governance in Wartorn Economies, Available at http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PDACG437.pdf

Collier, Paul. "Post-conflict recovery: How should strategies be distinctive?." *Journal of African Economies* (2009): ejp006.

Paris, Roland. "Peacebuilding and the limits of liberal internationalism." *International Security* 22, no. 2 (1997): 54-89.

Week 2 Civil Wars and Economic Growth

February 3 Seonjou Kang and James Meernik. 2005. — "Civil War Deconstruction and the Prospects for Economic Growth" *Journal of Politics* 67: 88-109

Gupta, Sanjeev, Benedict Clements, Rina Bhattacharya, and Shomit Chakravarti. "The elusive peace dividend." *Finance and Development-English Edition* 39, no. 4 (2002): 49-51.

Siyen Chen, Norman V. Loayza and Marta Reynal-Querol. 2008. — "The Aftermath of Civil War" *World Bank Economic Review* 22(1): 63-85

Week 3
Feb 10

Regional Impacts of Civil Wars

Ashraf Ghani and Clare Lockhart. 2008. *Fixing Failed States: A Framework for Rebuilding a Fractured World*, Chs. 1 – 4.

James Murdoch and Todd Sandler. 2004. — “Civil Wars and Economic Growth: Spatial Dispersion,” *American Journal of Political Science* 48(1): 138-151.

Kristian Skrede Gleditsch. 2007. — “Transnational Dimensions of Civil War” *Journal of Peace Research* 44(3): 293-309.

Week 4:
Feb 17

Policy Memo #1 - due

Week 5
Feb 24

Ending Civil Conflict?

Monica Duffy Toft. 2010. — “Ending Civil Wars: A Case for Rebel Victory?” *International Security* 34(4): 7-36.

Thomas Edward Flores and Irfan Nooruddin. 2009. — “Democracy under the Gun: Understanding Postconflict Economic Recovery.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 53: 3-29

Sanjeev Gupta, Shamsuddin Tareq, Benedict Clements, Alex Segura-Ubiergo, Rina Bhattacharya, and Todd Mattina. 2005. *Rebuilding Fiscal Institutions in Post-Conflict Countries*. IMF Occasional Paper 247.

Week 6:
March 3

Structural Adjustment: Good or Bad?

Del Castillo, *Rebuilding War-Torn States*, Ch. 5.

Ashraf Ghani and Clare Lockhart, *Fixing Failed States: A Framework for Rebuilding a Fractured World*, Ch. 5

Caroline Hartzell, Matthew Hoddie, and Molly Bauer. 2010. — “Economic Liberalization via IMF Structural Adjustment: Sowing the Seeds of Civil War?” *International Organization* 64(2): 339-356.

Thomas Edward Flores and Irfan Nooruddin. 2009. — “Financing the peace: Evaluating World Bank post-conflict assistance programs” *Review of International Organizations* 4(1): 1-27.

Semester Paper abstract and outline – due

Week 7
March 10

Changes in IFI Approaches

Del Castillo, *Rebuilding War-Torn States*, Ch. 6.

Ashraf Ghani and Clare Lockhart, *Fixing Failed States: A Framework for Rebuilding a Fractured World*, Chs. 6 – 7.

Ambroise Fayolle. 2006. — “Out of the Trap” *Finance and Development* 43(4).

IMF. 2008. The Fund’s Engagement in Fragile States and Post-Conflict Countries—A Review of Experience -- Issues and Options. Policy Development and Review Department.

World Bank. Independent Evaluation Group. 2006. Engaging With Fragile States: An IEG Review of World Bank Support to Low Income Countries Under Stress.

Week 8
March 17

Policy Memo #2 - due

Week 9
March 24

UN Approaches to Post-Conflict Reconstruction

Del Castillo, *Rebuilding War-Torn States*, Ch. 5 (review).

[Roland Paris. 2009. — “Understanding the Coordination Problem in Postwar Statebuilding” in Roland Paris and Timothy Sisk, *The Dilemmas of Statebuilding* \(London: Routledge\), pp. 53-79.](#)

Nicholas Sambanis. 2008. — “Short- and Long-Term Effects of United Nations Peace Operations” *World Bank Economic Review* 22(1): 9-32.

Seth G. Jones and James Dobbins. 2006. — “The UN’s Record In Nation-Building” *Chicago Journal of International Law* 6(2): 703-723.

UNDP. 2008. Crisis Prevention and Recovery Report: Post-Conflict Economic Recovery – Enabling Local Ingenuity. Available at <http://www.undp.org/cpr/content/economic_recovery/PCER_rev.pdf>. Chs. 3 - 4.

Week 10
March 31

Foreign Aid: Sequencing and Cyclicity as Problems

Del Castillo, *Rebuilding War-Torn States*, Ch. 6.

Paul Collier and Anke Hoeffler. 2004. — “Aid, Policy, and Growth in Post-conflict Societies” *European Economic Review* 48(5): 1125-1145.

Stewart Patrick. 2000. — “The Check is in the Mail” *Global Governance* 6(1): 61-94.

Seonjou Kang and James Meernik. 2004. — “Determinants of Post Conflict Economic Assistance.” *Journal of Peace Research*.41:149-166.

James K. Boyce. 2007. Public Finance, Aid and Post Conflict Recovery. UNDP Background Paper.

Week 11
April 7

Easter Break

Week 12
April 14

Foreign Aid: US Perspectives

USAID. 2009. A Guide to Economic Growth in Post-Conflict Countries. Available at http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PNADO408.pdf

Keith Crane, et al. 2009. Guidebook for Supporting Economic Development in Stability Operations. RAND Arroyo Center Technical Report.

Week 13
April 21

Policy Memo #3 - due

Week 14
April 28

Humanitarian Emergencies and Disaster Response

Ashraf Ghani and Clare Lockhart, *Fixing Failed States: A Framework for Rebuilding a Fractured World*, Ch. 8 – 9.

A. Cooper Drury, Richard S. Olson and Douglas A. Van Belle. 2005. — “The Politics of Humanitarian Aid: U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, 1964-1995.” *Journal of Politics*. 67(5): 454-473.

ALNAP. 2010. Haiti Earthquake Response: Context Analysis. Available at <<http://www.alnap.org/pool/files/haiti-context-analysis-final.pdf>>

ALNAP. 2010. Role of National Governments in International Humanitarian Responses to Disasters. Available at <<http://www.alnap.org/pool/files/26-meeting-background-paper.pdf>>

ALNAP. 2009. State of the Humanitarian System: Assessing Performance and Progress. Available at <<http://www.alnap.org/pool/files/alnap-sohs-final.pdf>>, Chs. 2 – 3.

Week 15
May 5

Working on your research paper

May 13

Research paper due